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GAU 1623  
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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: A. Bhan, et al.

Group Art Unit: 1623

Serial Number: 09/498,773

Examiner: L. Crane

Filed: February 5, 2000

For: Method for Deprotecting Oligonucleotides

**Response to Office Action**Honorable Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed June 7, 2001, in connection with the captioned application, please consider the following amendments and remarks.

**In the Specification**

Please amend the paragraph at page 4, lines 20-25, as follows:

Preferably, the phosphate protecting group is a group capable of undergoing  $\beta$ -elimination, such as 2-cyanoethyl[ phosphate]. The reagent cleaves the phosphate protecting group from the oligonucleotide by  $\beta$ -elimination. Preferably, the reagent comprises an amine with a formula  $R-N-R_1R_2$  wherein R,  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are independently hydrogen, hydroxy, alkyl, allyl, aryl, cycloalkyl, alkenyl, alkoxy, allyloxy, aryloxy, and may include from one to twenty carbon atoms.